



شعبة الترجمة الرسمية
Official Translation Department

Law of Weapons and Ammunition

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Translation of Saudi Laws



NOTE:

The translation of Saudi laws takes the following into consideration:

- Words used in the singular form include the plural and vice versa.
- Words used in the masculine form include the feminine.
- Words used in the present tense include the present as well as the future.
- The word “person” or “persons” and their related pronouns (he, his, him, they, their, them) refer to a natural and legal person.



Law of Weapons and Ammunition

Definitions

Article 1

In this Law, the following terms shall have the meanings assigned thereto, unless the context requires otherwise:

Military Weapons: Firearms, ammunition, and equipment especially designed for use in military operations, such as machine guns, artillery, missiles ...etc. Military weapons shall include weapons that use radiation, gases, toxins, and any weapons other than individual firearms and the weapons referred to in the remaining paragraphs of this Article.

Individual Firearms: Weapons designed for the use of an individual, such as handguns and rifles, as specified in the Implementing Regulations.

Hunting Weapons: Firearms with smooth barrels designed for hunting purposes.

Training Weapons and Air Rifles: Shooting weapons without gunpowder, the projectiles of which are launched by air pressure or spring action.

Cold Steel Weapons: Cutting, piercing, smashing, or bruising tools such as swords, daggers, knives, arrows, bayonets, bayoneted sticks, knuckles, and the like.

Ammunition: Projectiles launched from weapons by explosive thrust, air thrust, or thrust by spring action.

Antique Weapons: Old weapons of historical value proven, upon inspection, to be unusable.

Regulations: Implementing Regulations of this Law.

Minister: Minister of Interior.

Competent Authority: Ministry of Interior.

General Provisions

Article 2

The following persons shall be allowed to carry and use government-issued military and individual weapons and ammunition thereof in accordance with relevant laws and orders:

1. Military personnel of:
 - a) National Guard;



- b) Ministry of Defense and Aviation;
 - c) Ministry of Interior;
 - d) General Intelligence; and
 - e) Presidency of State Security.
2. Government civil employees authorized to carry government-issued weapons, in accordance with the law of the agency they are affiliated with.

Article 3

Import, sale, and purchase of individual firearms, air rifles, and hunting weapons – defined in this Law- as well as their accessories, spare parts, and ammunition shall be restricted to licensed Saudis, in accordance with procedures and conditions specified by the Regulations.

Article 4

Except for competent government agencies, it shall be prohibited to:

- a) manufacture, import, possess, deal in, acquire, or repair military weapons as well as their ammunition, accessories, and spare parts;
- b) manufacture or modify individual firearms as well as their accessories, spare parts, and ammunition;
- c) import, sell, purchase, carry, or acquire individual firearms or hunting weapons as well as their spare parts and ammunition without a license from the Minister;
- d) manufacture or import training weapons and air rifles as well as their spare parts, ammunition, and accessories without a license from the Minister;
- e) procure and carry weapons or ammunition as well as their spare parts or accessories without the Minister's permission; and
- f) import or procure weapons other than those provided for in this Law without the Minister's permission.

Article 5

- A. Antique weapons may not be imported or traded without a license from the Minister.
- B. Antique weapons may be procured or carried as collectibles.
- C. The Regulations shall specify the conditions and procedures for the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Article.

Article 6

Anyone to whom weapons, spare parts, or ammunition devolve by inheritance, bequest, or any other way shall inform the competent authorities of the same within three months from the date of such devolution.



Article 7

Anyone whose weapon is lost or damaged shall inform the competent authorities within one month from the date of his knowledge of such loss or damage.

Article 8

The Minister shall designate where and when the carrying of a licensed weapon is prohibited.

License Provisions

Article 9

The Minister may license the import, sale, purchase, carriage, acquisition, or repair of individual firearms, hunting weapons, training weapons, air rifles as well as their spare parts, accessories, and ammunition, in accordance with the conditions provided for in the Regulations.

Article 10

The Minister may license some Saudi sole proprietorships and companies, whose work requires arming some of their personnel, to possess individual firearms and ammunition, in accordance with the controls and conditions provided for in the Regulations.

Article 11

The Minister may, at his discretion, permit a person residing within the Kingdom to purchase, carry, and acquire an individual firearm.

Article 12

The Minister may license the opening of shooting range clubs in accordance with the controls and conditions provided for in the Regulations.

Article 13

The Minister may permit the transit of hunting weapons and personal protection weapons through Saudi territories in accordance with applicable international laws and customs, and the laws of the destination state, and in accordance with the procedures and conditions provided for in the Regulations.

Article 14

A person licensed to import, purchase, and sell individual firearms or hunting weapons as well as their accessories, spare parts, and ammunition shall take all necessary safety measures in their transport and storage, in accordance



with relevant governing conditions.

Article 15

A person licensed to import, purchase, and sell weapons of all types as well as their accessories, ammunition, and spare parts shall maintain special records therefor in accordance with the forms and procedures specified in the Regulations.

Article 16

The Minister may, for public interest, reject a license application, or restrict or revoke an existing license.

Article 17

All licenses issued under the provisions of this Law shall be used only by the licensee.

Article 18

A license for carrying or acquiring a weapon shall be revoked in the following cases:

- a) A decision is issued to confiscate the weapon and its ammunition.
- b) The licensee fails to meet any licensing conditions.
- c) Death or incapacity of the licensee.
- d) A decision is issued whereby the licensed resident is to leave the Kingdom permanently.

If revocation is made under paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this Article, the weapon and its ammunition shall be disposed of by the weapon owner, or the heirs of the deceased, their attorney-in-fact, or the minors' guardian, as specified in the Regulations.

Article 19

A license for the import, sale, purchase, or repair of individual firearms shall be revoked in the following cases:

- a) Death or incapacity of the licensee.
- b) Failure to comply with any licensing conditions.

The Regulations shall specify the conditions and procedures to be followed.

Article 20

The Regulations shall specify the procedures and conditions to be followed if a person licensed to import, sell, or purchase individual firearms and their ammunition chooses to change the activity or assign it to others.



Article 21

A person whose license has been revoked may not be granted a new license for any other weapon, except in the cases specified in the Regulations.

Article 22

The Regulations shall specify the procedures to be followed in case of loss or damage of a license.

Article 23

A license may be granted for the acquisition of more than one individual firearm, in accordance with the Regulations.

Article 24

A license may not be granted for the carrying of more than one individual firearm, and the Regulations shall specify the type of such weapon. The Minister may, in special cases, grant licenses for carrying more than one weapon.

Article 25

The Regulations shall specify the proper term of validity for all types of licenses.

Article 26

The Minister may grant permission to the owner of a licensed weapon to carry it when travelling outside the Kingdom if permitted by the countries of destination and transit.

Article 27

Compensation equal to the value of the licensed weapon and its ammunition may be paid if it is decided to surrender the weapon to the State in cases requiring such surrender, as specified by the Regulations.

Repair and Maintenance of Weapons

Article 28

It is prohibited to engage in the profession of repairing firearms of all types without a license from the Minister. The Regulations shall specify the licensing conditions and the licensee's obligations.

Article 29

It is prohibited to repair any weapon not licensed in accordance with the



provisions of this Law and its Regulations.

Article 30

It is prohibited to make any modification on a weapon's mechanism or loading method, in a manner rendering it more lethal.

Provisions for Diplomats, Residents, and Official Delegations

Article 31

- A. Members of diplomatic and consular corps accredited to the Kingdom may procure, carry, and possess regular individual firearms and their ammunition upon obtaining a license or procuring said firearms from stores licensed to sell them in the Kingdom, on a reciprocity basis.
- B. The license referred to in paragraph (a) of this Article shall be issued by the competent authority upon a request from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- C. Members of diplomatic and consular corps may not transfer the title of a licensed weapon except to a member of the same diplomatic mission or consulate accredited to the Kingdom. Otherwise, it must be proven that the weapon has exited the Kingdom upon the expiry of the licensee's residence permit in the Kingdom or cessation of his diplomatic or consular capacity. If the weapon is obtained from within the Kingdom in accordance with paragraph (a) of this Article, it may be disposed of in accordance with this Law and its Regulations.

Article 32

Members of Saudi diplomatic and consular corps working abroad may bring their individual firearms into the Kingdom upon ending their assignment abroad, in accordance with the instructions and procedures specified by the Regulations.

Article 33

Official or military delegates or individuals on official duties may bring and carry their regular official individual weapons in accordance with international custom and on a reciprocity basis, as circumstances may require, subject to the prior notification of the Ministry.

Penalties

Article 34

Anyone who commits any of the following acts shall be punished by



imprisonment for not more than 30 years and a fine not exceeding 300,000 riyals:

- a) Smuggling of military or individual weapons, or parts or ammunition thereof into the Kingdom, with the intention of destabilizing internal security.
- b) Using, manufacturing, assembling, selling, purchasing, or possessing military or individual weapons, or ammunition or parts thereof, with the intention of destabilizing internal security.

Article 35

Anyone who commits any of the following acts shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than 20 years and a fine not exceeding 200,000 riyals, or by either penalty:

- a) Smuggling military weapons, or parts or ammunition thereof into the Kingdom for trafficking purposes.
- b) Manufacturing military weapons, or ammunition or spare parts thereof for trafficking purposes.

Article 36

Anyone who carries, acquires, sells, or purchases military weapons or ammunition thereof shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than 15 years and a fine not exceeding 150,000 riyals, or by either penalty.

Article 37

Anyone who manufactures individual weapons, or parts or ammunition thereof, or smuggles the same into the Kingdom for trafficking purposes shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than 10 years and a fine not exceeding 100,000 riyals, or by either penalty.

Article 38

Anyone who commits any of the following acts shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than five years and a fine not exceeding 30,000 riyals, or by either penalty:

- a) Smuggling hunting weapons, or parts or ammunition thereof into the Kingdom for trafficking purposes.
- b) Smuggling individual firearms, or parts or ammunition thereof into the Kingdom for personal use.
- c) Manufacturing hunting weapons or their spare parts.
- d) Modifying the mechanism of hunting, training, or antique weapons to render them more lethal.



Article 39

Anyone who purchases or sells an individual firearm or ammunition without a license shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than two years and a fine not exceeding 7,000 riyals, or by either penalty.

Article 40

Anyone who possesses an individual firearm or ammunition without a license shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than 18 months and a fine not exceeding 6,000 riyals, or by either penalty.

Article 41

Anyone who commits any of the following acts shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than one year and a fine not exceeding 5,000 riyals, or by either penalty:

- a) Using a firearm licensed for carriage and possession for a purpose other than that licensed for.
- b) Using a firearm for hunting, even if the weapon is licensed.
- c) Possessing a hunting weapon or the ammunition thereof without a license.
- d) Allowing another person to use one's licensed weapon, or if another person uses one's weapon due to negligence.
- e) Transporting unlicensed weapons or ammunition, or abetting in such act.
- f) Establishing a place for training on the use of hunting or training weapons without obtaining a license.
- g) Engaging in the profession of weapon repair without obtaining a license.
- h) Repairing unlicensed weapons.
- i) Manufacturing ammunition for hunting weapons.
- j) Smuggling training weapons in bulk into the Kingdom.
- k) Smuggling hunting weapons and ammunition thereof into the Kingdom for personal use.
- l) Smuggling antique weapons for trafficking purposes.
- m) Violating any import, sale, possession, or repair licensing conditions.

Article 42

Anyone proven to have information on unlicensed weapon trading or smuggling thereof and fails to notify the competent authorities shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than six months and a fine not exceeding 3,000 riyals, or by either penalty.



Article 43

The following shall be punished by a fine not exceeding 2,000 riyals:

- a) Anyone whose import, sale, purchase, repair, or training license expires but continues to engage in the licensed activity without applying for renewal of his license within three months from its expiration date.
- b) Anyone whose license to carry or acquire a weapon is revoked but fails to dispose of or surrender said weapon within three months from the license revocation date.
- c) Anyone smuggling training weapons for personal use or possessing an air rifle without a license.
- d) Anyone being aware of loss, theft, or damage of his weapon but fails to notify the competent authorities.
- e) Anyone who violates any provision of this Law and its Regulations and does not fall under the penalties stipulated therein.

Article 44

Anyone carrying a licensed weapon where and when it is prohibited to carry weapons shall be fined not more than 1,000 riyals. The Regulations shall specify where and when it is prohibited to carry weapons.

Article 45

Anyone whose weapon is stolen or lost due to negligence shall be fined not more than 1,000 riyals, in addition to denying him the right to obtain a new license for any weapon for a period of two years from the penalty execution date.

Article 46

The following shall be fined not less than 100 and not more than 500 riyals for each year of default:

- a) Anyone whose license to carry or acquire a weapon expires but fails to apply for renewal thereof within three months from its expiration date.
- b) Anyone to whom a licensed firearm devolves through inheritance or bequest but fails to report it to the competent authorities within three months from the date of such devolution.

Article 47

Anyone who disposes of weapons and ammunition that is licensed for transit through the Kingdom's territories by sale or gift within the Kingdom shall be subject to the penalties applicable to weapon smugglers according to type.



Article 48

Anyone who participates in the commission of any of the violations stipulated in this Law shall be subject to the same penalty stipulated for said violation.

Article 49

Except for imprisonment, penalties stipulated in this Law shall apply to sole proprietorships, companies, or any other enterprise proven to have violated the provisions of this Law.

Article 50

1. In addition to penalties stipulated in this Law, all weapons, ammunition, and equipment thereof shall be confiscated pursuant to a judicial ruling. In case of smuggling, the means of transport shall be confiscated.
2. If the investigating agency fails to initiate a criminal lawsuit against the person in possession of the seized items, such items shall devolve to the state, unless there is strong indication that a person accused of being in possession of said items is expected to appear or to be reached; in which case, such agency shall order the seizure of said items for a period not exceeding three years.
3. If a non-conviction judgment is issued by the court due to lack of criminal responsibility or the lapse of the criminal suit due to pardon or death of the accused, unlicensed seized items shall be dealt with in accordance with paragraph (2) of this Article.
4. The Minister shall issue a decision concerning the disposal of confiscated items or items devolving to the state under this Article.

Article 51

Penalties stipulated in Articles 34, 35, and 36 of this Law shall be harshened if the violator is an employee of the authorities responsible for the application of this Law.

Article 52

The Bureau of Investigation and Public Prosecution shall investigate violations of the provisions of this Law.

Article 53

Pursuant to a decision by the Minister, a committee shall be formed of three members, one of whom shall be qualified in Sharia or law, to consider the imposition of penalties stipulated in Article 43 except for paragraph (c), and Articles 44, 45, and 46 of this Law. Decisions of said committee shall be approved by the Minister or his designee. Anyone against whom a penalty is rendered may file an appeal before the Administrative Court within 60 days from the date of notification of said penalty.



Article 54

Without prejudice to Article 53 of this Law, the Board of Grievances shall have jurisdiction to review violations of the provisions of this Law and impose the penalties stipulated therein.

Article 55

Execution of penalties stipulated in this Law shall not prejudice any harsher penalty stipulated in another law.

Article 56

The Minister may stay the procedures of questioning anyone who reports, on his own initiative, his unlicensed weapons and ammunition and expresses his desire and readiness to surrender them before they are seized.

Article 57

- A. The Board of Grievances may, for justifiable reasons or if the convict's conduct, history, age, or personal circumstances, the conditions in which the violation was committed, or whatever leads to the belief that he is unlikely to repeat the violation of the provisions of this Law, stay the prison sentence stipulated in this Law, unless he was previously convicted of the same violation. The reasons upon which the judgement was based must be made clear in all cases.
- B. If the convict repeats any of the violations punishable under this Law within three years from the stay of execution date, the Board of Grievances may revoke the stay of execution and order the execution of the penalty, without prejudice to the penalty stipulated for the new violation.
- C. If the stay of execution period lapses without the convict repeating any of the violations punishable under this Law, the suspended judgment shall be considered null and void.

Article 58

The Minister may grant permission to re-export weapons or ammunition entering the Kingdom through customs points of entry/exit without prior permission if reported before seizure, within a period not exceeding six months, and they shall be confiscated pursuant to a judicial ruling if they are not re-exported.

Interim Provisions

Article 59

The Minister may grant an award not exceeding the amount of the imposed fine to anyone who reports violations of trading or smuggling weapons if the report



leads to seizing the weapons and convicting the violators.

Article 60

The Minister may designate the departments and branches entrusted with the execution of the provisions of this Law, as well as their jurisdictions and powers in accordance with the dictates of public interest.

Article 61

The Minister may delegate some of the powers vested in him under this Law.

Article 62

This Law shall supersede the Law of Firearms and Ammunition issued under Royal Decree No. (M/8) dated 19/02/1402H, and shall repeal all provisions conflicting therewith.

Article 63

This Law and its Regulations shall come into effect after 180 days from its date of publication in the Official Gazette. The Minister shall issue the Regulations of this Law during this period.